



Apple Blossom Scenic Byway

La Crescent's claim as Apple Capital of Minnesota is rooted in the first orchard planted here in the 1850's. John S Harris left a sweet and juicy legacy by planting the first orchard at the base of Apple Blossom Scenic Byway in 1857. Harris is considered the godfather of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, having served two terms as President and exhibiting 20 varieties of apples. La Crescent's Apple Capital honor was proclaimed by the State of Minnesota in 2002.

Apple Blossom Scenic Byway begins in La Crescent and heads north on Elm Street out of town. The Byway is known for its rolling hills, farmland, orchards, and bluffs overlooking the beautiful Mississippi River Valley. Numerous orchards spread out over the bluffs that sit above the Mississippi River. During early May, this ride features the sight and aroma of thousands of apple blossoms. From late summer through the fall, apple stands appear in town and at roadside orchards.

At the top of the bluff just outside of La Crescent is Apple Blossom Overlook Park. It has a striking view of the main channel of the Mississippi River. Recent prairie plantings and new picnic tables provides a beautiful vista.

Following the byway to the "T" at Winona County Road 12, you can choose to travel east into Dakota or to the west heading to Nodine and on to the Great River Bluffs State Park. Either route provides picturesque panoramic views.

No matter the season, no trip to La Crescent is complete without a drive along Apple Blossom Scenic Byway.

La Crescent Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
LaCrescentMN.com – cityofLaCrescent-mn.gov
507-895-2800 or 800-926-948



La Crescent's Applefest is held annually during the apple harvest, the third full weekend in September. There is entertainment, a golf tournament, orchard tours, a chicken q, a pancake breakfast, an art & crafts show, a flea market, a car show and so much more. Children love the kiddie parade, big wheel race and the carnival. People travel for miles to come see the King Apple Grande Parade on Sunday afternoon.



The city of La Crescent is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River.

Unique to La Crescent, we are located on three scenic byways: Apple Blossom Scenic Drive, Historic Bluff Country National Scenic Byway (Hwy 16), and the Great River Road.

Heritage House, the La Crescent Historical Society Museum and the Apple Shed are filled with multiple displays of orchard equipment and artifacts. A visit to the Heritage House is a walk through time.

